

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00

EUR-25 AEC-11 ISO-00 DRC-01 MC-02 ACDA-19 /071 W

----- 016152

R 021556Z NOV 73

FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 987

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L USMISSION OECD PARIS 28355

EXCON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM, UR, US

SUBJECT: TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS BETWEEN US FIRMS
AND USSR

REF: OECD PARIS 27708

1. AT OCT 30 COCOM MEETING FRENCH DEL VARNOUX REPEATED HIS QUERY, OFF RECORD, ABOUT GENERAL DYNAMICS AGREEMENT AND ADDED HE WAS INFORMED BY "EXTREMELY SERIOUS, NON-PRESS SOURCE" (APPARENTLY FRENCH EMBASSY MOSCOW) ABOUT CDC AGREEMENT REPORTED BY LONDON FINANCIAL TIMES (REFTEL). HE ALSO MADE REFERENCE TO AGREEMENT BETWEEN ITT AND USSR FOR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS FIELDS REPORTED IN JUNE 15 WASHINGTON POST. VARNOUX ASKED THAT THE COMMITTEE BE INFORMED ABOUT EMBARGOED CONTENT OF THESE ARRANGEMENTS, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF DIFFICULTIES FRENCH AND UK HAVE HAD IN OBTAINING COCOM APPROVAL OF LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS BY THEIR OWN COMPANIES. UKDEL ASSOCIATED HIMSELF WITH VARNOUX'S QUERY, DECLARING THAT SUCH DEALS AGGRAVATED PROBLEM OF MAINTAINING UK INDUSTRIAL COMMUNITY'S CONFIDENCE IN COCOM. HE URGED THAT US KEEP COCOM INFORMED.

2. USDEL SAID HE WAS GLAD QUESTION HAD BEEN PUT OFF RECORD, SINCE OTHERWISE HE WOULD HAVE BEEN TEMPTED TO SUGGEST IT WAS
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OUT OF ORDER. HE SAID USG WAS NOT NECESSARILY INFORMED OF

EVERY BUSINESS NEGOTIATION IN PROGRESS BETWEEN US FIRMS AND COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. NEVERTHELESS, ANY TRANSACTION INVOLVING EXPORT OF EMBARGOED PRODUCTS OF TECHNOLOGY WOULD BE SUBJECT TO LICENSING AND WOULD BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE COMMITTEE IF APPROPRIATE, AND IN SUCH CASES NO LICENSE WOULD BE ISSUED WITHOUT COMMITTEE'S APPROVAL. HE NOTED THAT OTHER MEMBERS HAD NOT INFORMED COCOM OF NEGOTIATIONS BY THEIR COMPANIES PRIOR TO SUBMISSION OF CASE TO COCOM.

3. VARNOUX COUNTERED BY SAYING THAT FRENCH COMPANIES COULD NOT SIGN AGREEMENTS WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES INVOLVING SUCH GOODS OR TECHNOLOGY WITHOUT FRENCH GOV'S ASSENT, AND WAS INTERESTED TO NOTE THAT US COMPANIES COULD DO SO WITHOUT USG APPROVAL. GERMAN DEL OBSERVED HE COULD NOT AGREE WITH USDELS SUGGESTION THAT QUESTION WAS IMPROPER. HE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT COCOM HAD LEGITIMATE INTEREST IN KNOWING ABOUT SUCH AGREEMENTS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGES, BUSINESS FIRMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973OECDP28355
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: OECD PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731158/aaaabqvo.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: OECD PARIS 27708
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <20-Nov-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS BETWEEN US FIRMS AND USSR
TAGS: ESTC, UR, US, COCOM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005